CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 31 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel A. J. Goodpaster

SUBJECT: Offshore Islands

According to a report received through CIA channels, eight Chinese Communist LST's, loaded with an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 troops, pulled out of Tsingtao on the morning of 23 January, and proceeded south toward Shanghai. Two unidentified naval vessels were accompanying the landing craft.

[redacted]

If the report of the departure from Tsingtao of troop-laden landing craft is true, it would appear that the targets for a Communist invasion are the two major islands in the Tachen group--Upper Tachen and Lower Tachen. It is currently estimated that the capture of these two islands would require about 30,000 Communist troops. The number reported aboard the landing craft is far in excess of the troop strength which would be required for attacks on smaller, lightly defended islands in the Tachen group.

Huntington D. Sheldon.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

C.C. Gen Cutler.

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